

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Non-elected claims 17-32 are canceled without prejudice to filing a divisional application.

"Non-product-by-process claims" 33-35 are added. An additional filing fee is enclosed for one extra independent claim.

One of the main objects of the present invention is to prevent non-uniform coating during the overcoating of a solution containing an additive, as stated on 8-10 pages in the specification of the present invention. It is submitted that "in the same coating line - - " is the same meaning as "without the sheet being wound in a roll form".

In order to attain the object, limitations of "a overcoat layer formed by coating an additive on the porous layer after the completion of a constant drying rate period in drying process of the porous layer" and "(a overcoat layer formed by coating) in the same coating line used for coating the aqueous coating composition to form the porous layer" are included in claims. These limitations are not disclosed or suggested in prior arts cited by the Examiner. Nor is an alternative to avoiding the

problem of non-uniform coating for the type of ink-jet recording sheet claimed. It is therefore submitted that the art fails to show or suggest the ink-jet recording sheet of the present invention, having the more uniform coating with the overcoating solution.

The Examiner cites Tsubaki (USP 6,335,102); Ohbayashi (USP 6,492,0050; and Sismondi et al. (USP 6,387,473) as anticipating or rendering obvious the presently claimed ink-jet recording sheet. The Examiner states that, because these are product claims, the process by which the porous layer is formed is not dispositive of the issue of patentability.

Although it is described by the process by which it is made, claim 1 is, in fact, directed to an ink-jet recording sheet, as are the remaining claims which depend thereon. In addition, new claims 33-35, which are in independent form, are also directed to an ink-jet recording sheet.

The present invention is a high quality ink-jet recording sheet with a uniform layer as described above and having coatings in which there is a reduced formation of cracking during production and with low fluctuation in quality. These features are accomplished by the process step which has been added to the end of claim 1. More specifically, by carrying out the step (c)

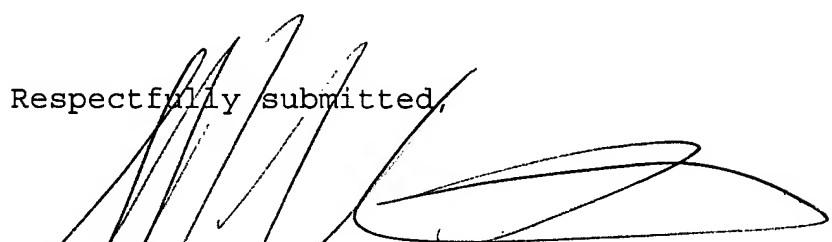
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in the same coating line used for coating the aqueous coating composition, the need to roll up the web of material between steps, is avoided and the resulting product, of high quality with little or no cracking formed during production and low fluctuation in quality, is produced. This product, although defined by the process by which it was made, is a different product than is made by the processes of the prior art.

In order to optimize the prior art product, there must be teaching to enable such optimization. The processes required by the present invention claims are not shown or suggested by the art. Nor are there other process which would result in the same high quality product.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present invention is not shown or suggested by the prior art. Entry of this AMENDMENT and allowance of the application are therefore respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Enc. Check for \$86.00 for one extra independent claim